

HOUSE RESOLUTION 25

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to pay tribute to the life of Tom Lee of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body honor the memory of those Tennesseans who lived the examined life with courage and conviction; and

WHEREAS, one such individual was Tom Lee of Memphis, whose heroic actions on May 8, 1925, saved the lives of thirty-two of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, on that fateful day, Mr. Lee was piloting a skiff on the Mississippi River when the riverboat M.E. Norman capsized; although he could not swim, he drove his boat into the wreckage repeatedly, rescuing thirty-two passengers and bringing them safely to shore; and

WHEREAS, hailed as a hero, Tom Lee was taken to Washington, where he met President Calvin Coolidge. The survivors bought Mr. Lee and his wife a furnished house and bestowed food and gifts on them each Christmas; the City of Memphis gave Mr. Lee a job; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, two years after the death of Tom Lee, the City of Memphis renamed its waterfront park "Tom Lee Park" and erected a monument in his honor; and

WHEREAS, the Tom Lee Engagement Center is the location of the Living Legend Award Ceremony, which honors those individuals who have been so important to the success and prosperity of Shelby County and the City of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Tom Lee inspired generations with his selfless acts of heroism; his courageousness in the face of certain danger truly epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism for which this great State was named; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we pay tribute to the life of Tom Lee, namesake of the Tom Lee Engagement Center, and reflect fondly on his altruism and dedication to his fellow man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.